

10/734,820  
August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of 05/27/05

Via Facsimile

Remarks

This amendment is in response to the May 27th, 2005 Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverses Examiner's rejections of claims 1-20 in light of the above amendments and the following remarks:

**Rejection of claim 13 under §112**

Applicant has amended claim 13 to include "a portion of said inner layer". Therefore reflecting that not all of the inner layer need be inserted all at once. Support that the inner layer can comprise multiple pieces, can be found, for example, in paragraph 14.

**Rejection of claims 1-6, 9-12, 14-16 19 and 20 under § 102(b)**

Ward '314 was used to reject these claims. All of the rejected claims, either themselves or through their dependencies, have the limitation of a wedge with a lateral gap and inner layer. Therefore, applicant's invention may come down to a single wedge with the described lateral bi-section (sometimes full, sometimes partial) to which the resinous sheets are inserted.

Ward '314 describes wedges being inserted between two or more distinct, whole pieces. The pieces do not have a lateral gap or inner layer. Fig 4 of Ward illustrates wedges being driven between felt covered pieces, and even additional blocks to either side of those wedges (presumably to protect the felt). See description of Fig 4, column 5 lines 22-29, as well as the terminal paragraphs in claims 1 and 10.

Therefore Ward does not describe the same invention and does not teach, at a minimum, the above discussed limitations.

**Rejections of claims 7, 8, 17 & 18 under § 103(a).**

These claims were rejected under Ward '314 in view of Miller '575. Since applicant has already explained the distinctions of the present invention over Ward '314,

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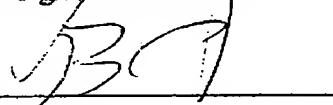
Via Facsimile

and applicant does not see those distinctions as being taught by Miller '575, applicant believes that the above arguments also address these rejections.

In view of the above amendments, remarks and appended affidavit, applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,  
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per Tighe Patton PLLC

by

  
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